



Alcoholic Beverage Control

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NC ABC COMMISSION SUSPENDS ALCOHOL PERMITS HELD BY ROCKINGHAM'S SUEDE

RALEIGH – Sworn statements of law enforcement officers describing numerous fights with crowds as large as 450 people and an April 27 incident with shots fired and serious cutting injuries at a Rockingham club has prompted the NC ABC Commission to suspend the alcohol permits held by Suede.

The club, located at 303 East Washington Street, Rockingham, has held permits to sell beer, wine and mixed beverages since 2011.

Affidavits of law enforcement officials detailed several incidents of violence, which included an assault on a law officer and numerous calls for service to the location including assistance rendered by Hamlet Police Department and the State Highway Patrol. Rockingham Police Chief Billy Kelly and Richmond County Sheriff James Clemmons prepared letters urging that the ABC Commission take action to stop the sale of alcohol at Suede.

The ABC Commission reviewed the letters and the sworn statements of the law enforcement officers and today issued the summary suspension, which is immediate and is in effect until the case is heard by the Office of Administrative Hearings. The action is authorized under N.C. General Statute 150B-3(c), which directs the ABC Commission to begin hearing proceedings on the matter.

In April 2010, the state ABC Commission announced Last Call – a cooperative initiative with local law enforcement and ALE that streamlines the process for suspending alcohol permits of violent bars and clubs. This week's action is the 17th summary suspension of permanent ABC permits by the state ABC Commission since Last Call was introduced. It is the first summary suspension of 2013.

ABOUT THE NC ABC COMMISSION

North Carolina is one of 17 states to regulate alcohol through a control system. Since 1937, the North Carolina Alcoholic Beverage Control Commission has provided regulation and control over the sale, purchase, transportation, manufacture, consumption and possession of alcoholic beverages in the state of North Carolina. The commission oversees more than 25,000 permits allowing alcohol sales by more than 18,000 retail outlets across the state.
<http://abc.nc.gov>.

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